

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028409

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 SCA-01 OMB-01 SY-04 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OIC-02 VO-03 FBIE-00 /108 R

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UNA: MMATHESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, US

SUBJECT: PLO UN OBSERVER STATUS--ISRAELI VIEWS

REF: A-TEL AVIV 738 B-USUN 347 C-STATE 22353

1. EYTAN BENTSUR OF ISRAELI EMBASSY CALLED AT DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY 4 TO DISCUSS PLO OBSERVER STATUS. HE SAID THAT
HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE PLO HAD MADE FORMAL APPLICATION FOR
OFFICES IN N.Y. AND GENEVA AND WAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT WAS
UNAWARE OF FORMAL EFFORTS BY PLO TO ESTABLISH OBSERVER
OFFICES. HE EXPRESSED ISRAELI VIEW THAT THE GA RESOLUTION
DID NOT GIVE PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS, THAT IT WAS
ONLY AD HOC, AND WOULD THEREFORE NEED TO BE REPEATED
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PAGE 02 STATE 028409

ANNUALLY. HE ALSO REITERATED ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO HAVING

PLO LISTED IN BLUE BOOK AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD USDNSYG WOULD PROBABLY MAKE NO DECISION BEFORE END OF MONTH. HE MENTIONED ISRAELIS IN NEW YORK HAD HEARD PLO MIGHT HAVE BEEN ADVISED NOT TO ASK FORMALLY TO OPEN OFFICE, BUT TO DO IT, AND PRESENT A 'FAIT ACCOMPLI' TO UN. WOULD APPRECIATE USUN COMMENTS ON THIS.

2. IN REGARD TO PLO VISAS AND IMMUNITIES, BENTSUR EXPRESSED ISRAELI VIEW THAT UNDER HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT, PLO, SINCE ONLY OBSERVERS ON AD HOC BASIS, DOES NOT HAVE PERMANENT

OBSERVERS AND THEREFORE DOESN'T QUALIFY FOR DIPLOMATIC VISAS AND IMMUNITIES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ISRAELI GOVT FELT IT WAS CONTRARY TO CHARTER AND UN TO GIVE THEM ANY SORT OF DIPLOMATIC STATUS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE, HE SAID THIS HAD BEEN RATHER DORMANT AND HAD HAD NO PUBLICITY WHICH A PLO OBSERVER OFFICE WOULD DRAW, WITH ALL SUBSEQUENT PROBLEMS OF SECURITY FOR NEW YORK.

3. DISCUSSING THE PLO EFFORT TO ACQUIESCE TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, HE STATED ISRAELI FIRM OPPOSITION AND HOPE FOR US SUPPORT. HE SAID ISRAELI GOVT HAD HEARD THAT A RESOLUTION WOULD BE PUSHED AT VIENNA DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION CONFERENCE ASKING SWISS GOVT TO ACCEPT PLO ACQUIESCENCE TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS. DEPT INFORMED HIM WE WERE UNAWARE SUCH EFFORTS. WOULD APPRECIATE IF VIENNA DELEGATION WOULD REPORT ANY INFORMATION ON SUCH A MOVE BY IMMEDIATE NIACT CABLE. KISSINGER

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